

Ser. No. 10/616,749

**Amendments to the Drawings**

Please replace drawing sheets 1 and 2 with the attached replacement sheets.

#### Remarks

Claims 1-13 were pending in the application. Claims 1-10 were rejected. No claims were merely objected to and claims 11-13 were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, claim 2 is canceled, claim 1 is amended, and claims 14-21 are added. No new matter is presented.

#### Drawings

The drawings were objected to for a lack of "Prior Art" legends in FIGS. 1 and 2. By the foregoing amendment, this has been corrected.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11-13.

#### Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112(2) for an asserted lack of clarity.

Specifically, it was asserted that identification of a high pressure compressor section downstream of the low compressor section produces a lack of clarity relative to the claim 1 identification of an intermediate case to which a stator shroud of a ring of the low pressure compressor section vanes is welded. By way of explanation, in the exemplary engine, the high pressure compressor may be located downstream of or along the intermediate casing. It is noted that the identification of relative upstream or downstream positions does not inherently connote immediately upstream or immediately downstream positions, permitting the presence of intervening components. In view of the foregoing amendments discussed below, as well as this discussion, the rejection is believed moot.

#### Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-6 and 9-12 were rejected as being anticipated by Stueber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,249,921). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The col. 4, lines 40-48 passage was cited for welding. This passage relates to prior art being distinguished by Steuber et al. relative to their invention. Stueber et al. generally discloses a compressor discharge duct 36 immediately downstream of the compressor 14 and immediately

upstream of the combustor 16. The examiner identified outlet guide vanes (OGVs) 42 of this duct.

As amended, claim 1 identifies first and second compressor sections, with the second downstream of the first. One of the rings of the first compressor section vanes is welded to the intermediate case. Stueber et al. fails to disclose such a configuration because the OGVs 42 clearly are not associated with the upstream of two compressor sections.

Furthermore, no citation has been made regarding: the full annulus of claim 5; the stamping/casting combination of claim 6; that the prior art would be subject to any replacement requiring the rewelding of claim 9; and the individual vane replacement after the welding of claim 10.

New claim 14 identifies the struts noted in the penultimate sentence of paragraph 0003. New claim 15 is supported by former claim 2 and, expressly references high and low pressure compressor and turbine sections as well as the welding of one of the rings of the low pressure compressor section to the intermediate case. As noted above, no such welding is disclosed by Stueber et al. New claims 16, 17, 18, and 19 are supported, respectively, by claims 4, 5, and 6 and paragraph 0003 as noted above.

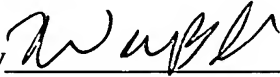
#### Claims Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stueber et al. in view of the admitted prior art. New claims 20 and 21 are former claims 7 and 8 with claim 20 in independent form. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Stueber et al. expressly teaches away from welding of its particular components. Col. 4, lines 49-53. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art presented with the intermediate case and adjacent stator of the admitted prior art would not find reason in Stueber et al. to modify it by welding. The present specification at paragraph [0015] describes potential benefits of welding the stator to the intermediate case as: weight savings; reduced costs; and/or limited leakage. Since The failure of Stueber et al. to consider at least the first two properties further evidences the nonobviousness.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 3-21 are in condition for allowance.  
Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

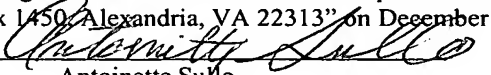
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Date: December 14, 2004

Enc: Replacement drawing sheets 1 and 2

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on December 14, 2004

  
Antoinette Sullo